

# Mobile applications for English learning performance upgrade

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## Abstract

© 2018, Springer Nature Switzerland AG. The rapid growth of the Internet has significantly changed the way English teachers transfer knowledge to their students. It is obvious that nothing is comparable with teacher-student interaction, but there is no doubt mobile applications have aggressively penetrated into the learning process and even proved their effectiveness, especially with Generation Z, for they facilitate meaningful learning environment. Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) is the use of mobile devices to improve language acquisition. Authors of the research investigated the shift from teacher-led learning to student-led one studying the way under-graduates use the mobile application ELEVATE. The aim of this experimental study has been to find out the potential of using the interactive mobile application ELEVATE with Z-learners to upgrade their skills in English learning performance such as vocabulary, pronunciation, listening and comprehension of the ESL learners without teacher's help as well as to develop critical thinking skills along the way. The results of the post-test showed that students in the focus group significantly outperformed those in the standard group, which means students' learning performance considerably enhanced. Interview data showed that students have positive attitudes towards the creative ways of language learning. Meaningful learning paradigm can remarkably improve English learning effectiveness. There are some limitations in MALL approaches though they have high potential for further development and improvement. Enhancing mobile devices are sure to make MALL-based technology more efficient both for teachers and students.

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## Keywords

Critical thinking, ESL students, Generation Z, ICT (Information and Communication Technologies), Learning performance, Meaningful learning, Mobile application, Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL), Mobile devices, Mobile learning, On-line education

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